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EXCLUSIVE

INTERVIEW

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HER PATH IN THE COUNTRY MUSIC LANDSCAPE**



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Reviews 72 • Excellent



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EDITOR'S NOTE

It's SUMMER! You know what that means
right? It's time for those upbeat releases to
bring out the feel good moment of the year.
So, here's what we have for you this issue -
We've been searching for the brightest
releases, live shows and artists' stories for
you, so here they are. On our cover we have
the amazing Janet Devlin, from X Factor UK
to her BBC Documentary through to her new
Country inspired Sound, we've got four
pages worth of interview ready for you to
discover. We've been out and about
checking out the latest shows and tours,
from Doja Cat to Girls Aloud and as always,
we have selected some of our standout finds
in BLOG HIGHLIGHTS and PLAYLIST PICKS.
We've also interviewed the likes of Emily
Mane, Pretti Emage, Kati Cooke and Ainsley
Costello for a female led interview special.
That's not all though, we've been delving
into the latest album and single releases to
keep you up to date with some of the
hottest independent release. We didn't
forget our Tech lovers either, with features
on DSM & Humboldt Simplifier X: The
Ultimate Dual Preamp and Cab Sim Pedal
and how to Achieve Atmospheric Bliss with
the Walrus Audio Fundamental Series
Ambient Reverb Pedal.

AND THERE'S MORE!

So let's get the Summer Started Here!



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PROGRESSIVE METAL'S NEW PINNACLE: MINORARC'S 'INCLUSIONS'



AUSTRALIA, MELBOURNE

In the sprawling, ever-evolving world of progressive metal and experimental music, Ivan Bullock stands as a beacon of innovation and emotional depth. Hailing from Melbourne, Australia, this multi-instrumentalist has spent over two decades nurturing his sound. Resonate with both complexity and rawness, his sound is one of heartfelt emotion. His latest album, "Inclusions," released on 1st September 2023 under his solo project Minorarc, is a testament to his artistic journey—a journey marked by constant evolution and a deep understanding of the human condition.

From Classical Roots to Tokyo's Pulse

Born in Canberra in 1976, Ivan Bullock's early years were steeped in classical music. His father, a part-time instrument maker, crafted a violin for him from African hardwood, a unique instrument that would accompany him through his formative years. However, a neck injury at 18 abruptly halted his classical pursuits. Undeterred, Bullock turned his passion towards the avant-garde, delving into experimental and industrial music, genres that would later influence his unique sound.

The late 1990s saw Bullock's life take a transformative turn with a move to Tokyo. Amid the city's frenetic energy and isolation, he found a wellspring of creativity. It was here that Mystral Tide was born—a project that blended piano, digital recording, and synthesis into a hauntingly beautiful sound. The release of

"Whirlpool of Souls" in 2001 under Brisbane's Zeitgeist Records marked a significant milestone, earning him recognition and performance opportunities across Japan and Europe.

Building a Community in Melbourne

Returning to Australia in 2003, Bullock settled in Melbourne and began laying the foundations for a vibrant underground music scene. He founded DEMUS (Dark Electronic Music Underground Society) and Darkstereo, platforms dedicated to promoting local experimental artists. These initiatives culminated in the "Enzyme" events, a series of live performances that showcased a wide array of talent. The 2010 "Enzyme Tower" event for the Melbourne Fringe Festival, featuring 13 acts across two floors, remains a highlight in Melbourne's cultural history.

The Birth of Minorarc

By 2009, Bullock had shifted his creative focus from Mystral Tide to a new project: Minorarc. This transition marked a departure from the gothic electronica of his earlier work to a more nuanced blend of progressive metal and post-rock. Minorarc's self-titled debut album in 2010 and the "Involution" EP in 2013 laid the groundwork for his evolving sound, characterized by non-traditional song structures and a rich interplay of instruments. "Inclusions": A Sonic Masterpiece
Minorarc's latest album, "Inclusions," is a poignant exploration of



modern metal's aggression tempered by classical elegance. Throughout his releases, some have captured Bullock's ability to convey deep emotional narratives through music. The album's instrumental nature allows listeners to immerse themselves fully in the intricate layers of sound, each note a brushstroke on a vast, emotive canvas. Critical acclaim has followed, with "Inclusions" being named Album of the Week by The Progspace and receiving glowing reviews from Metal Temple and Progland.

A Collaborative Spirit

Despite his prowess as a solo artist, Bullock thrives on collaboration. His current live ensemble includes Brendan Henriques on bass and Eric Shek on violin, adding new dimensions to Minorarc's sound. This collaborative spirit extends to his role as guitarist for Melbourne gothic band Chiron, where he contributes to their new album. These partnerships not only enrich Bullock's musical palette but also highlight his commitment to the broader music community.

Looking to the Future

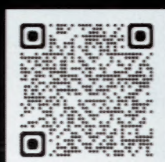
The future holds exciting prospects for Ivan Bullock. Alongside preparing for live performances, he is involved in recording Chiron's upcoming album and organizing a digital event for the Melbourne Fringe Festival in 2024. The planned 25th Anniversary Edition of Mystral Tide's "Whirlpool of Souls" in 2026 promises a nostalgic yet fresh take on his early work, offering fans a journey back to the origins of his sound.

Conclusion

Ivan Bullock's musical journey is a testament to resilience, innovation, and a profound understanding of human emotions. Through Minorarc, he continues to push the boundaries of progressive metal and experimental music, creating works that are not just heard but deeply felt. As he moves forward, his music remains a powerful conduit for exploring the complexities of the human experience, one note at a time.



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WRITTEN BY TAMARA JENNA